

The Three Relationships



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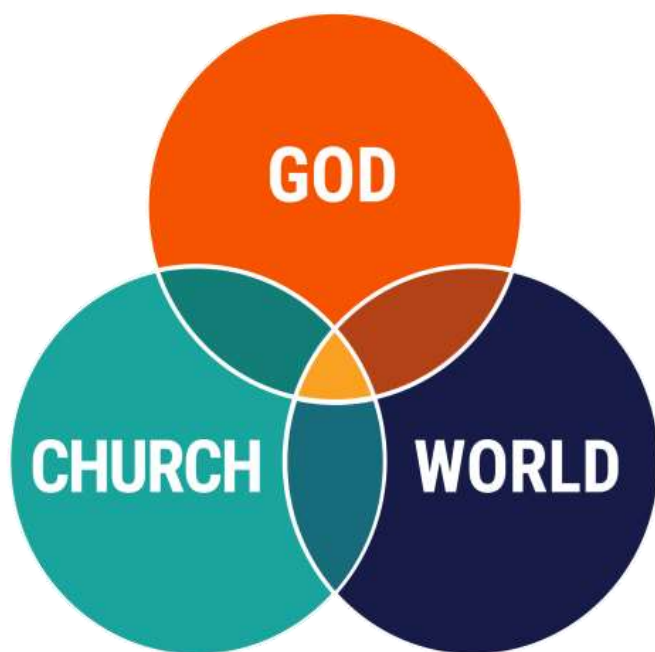
The Three Relationships

Our mission at Faith Church is to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. We believe that a disciple of Jesus follows His example of having a healthy and growing relationship with God, the Church, and the World. On the next page, you can see each of these three relationships expanded into 5 unique Rhythms.

These Rhythms aren't "to-do" list items; they are statements that we should be able to say about our lives as we grow deeper in our faith. As you explore each Rhythm, you'll find some ideas of what you can do to grow in each one. By living these things out, we will grow more and more as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As you work through this material, we encourage you to be open to how the Holy Spirit wants to grow you and how he wants to work through you using your strengths.

See all the current resources and opportunities for Three Relationships at bellefontefaitth.com/3R.



GOD

PASSION	Jesus is the center of my life.
SCRIPTURE	My life is directed by the Bible.
PRAYER	Conversations with God overflow to every area of my life.
OBEDIENCE	I listen to the Holy Spirit and obey.
IDENTITY	I understand who I am in Christ and live accordingly.

CHURCH

ACCOUNTABILITY	I allow open and honest feedback in my life.
GENEROSITY	I use my time and treasure to further the kingdom of God.
COMMUNITY	My interactions with the church are rooted in love.
SERVICE	I use my gifts/talents to grow the church.
FAMILY	My faith overflows first and foremost in my home.

WORLD

READINESS	I continue to prepare my mind/heart for interaction with others.
ENGAGEMENT	I look for opportunities to introduce people to Jesus.
BLESSING	I find ways to make the world around me better.
SHARING	I communicate the gospel to others.
GLOBAL	I am involved in making disciples worldwide.

Study Guide

As you can read about on page 2, our Christian faith is not only our personal relationship with God. Jesus lived out a personal relationship with God, a loving relationship with the people of God (the church), and a relationship with people who weren't his followers yet (the world). Work through the questions below to see examples of Jesus' life.

1. **Read Matthew 14:22-23; Luke 11:1; Mark 1:35-37.**
2. What did Jesus do in these verses? What did Jesus neglect in order to spend time with God the Father? What does this tell us about his relationship with the Father?
3. Based on sermons, Scripture, and things you've heard, what else is part of a personal relationship with God?
4. **Read John 13:1-5.**
5. What did Jesus do in this text? At the end of verse 1, what are we told about Jesus' relationship with "his own"? What do these things tell us about his relationship with the people of God?
6. Based on sermons, Scripture, and things you've heard, what else is part of a relationship with the Church (the people of God)?
7. **Read John 4:7-15.**
8. According to this passage, why did Jesus go to the well? Why did the woman go to the well? In their conversation, what did Jesus do for the woman? What does this encounter tell us about his relationship with the world?
9. Based on sermons, Scripture, and things you've heard, what else is part of a relationship with the World (people who don't know God yet)?
10. Jesus demonstrates that to follow him, we should have a growing relationship with God, the Church, and the World. In what way is this similar or different from how you've thought about being a follower of Jesus?

Next Steps:

Each of the Three Relationships are broken into 5 Rhythms (or patterns of living, found on page 3 of this workbook). To get an awareness of the strengths of your life of faith and areas you can grow, go to bellefontefaitth.com/3R and take the confidential and private Spiritual Health Assessment.

After taking the assessment, choose one Rhythm that you'd like to grow in and complete the accompanying worksheet on the following pages to help you better understand what the Rhythm is and how you can live it out.

After completing the worksheet, commit to doing one thing to help you grow in that Rhythm.

As always, if you'd like to sit down and discuss the Three Relationships or your next steps, feel free to reach out to one of the Pastors at Faith Church.

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PASSION

Jesus is the center of my life.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Psalm 73:21-28. While the writer was struggling, he still had a passion for God. What fueled that passion and what did it look like? v. 23, 24, 25, 26, 28

READ Matthew 22:34-40. Describe in your own words what Jesus said was the greatest commandment. Make it personal.

What does this have to do with having passion for God and what might this look like in a person's life today?

What are some things that a person might tend to love more than the Lord, and how would that affect their life?

2

WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ Hebrews 13:15 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How might regular praise and thanks to God help build a passion for Him?

List some ways you can practically praise and thank God consistently.

Praise Him for Who He Is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Thank Him for What He has Done:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask God to develop a passion for Him in you. Do this on a daily basis and watch Him grow a desire for Him in your life.



PRAISE

Take a walk or find a private place and sing songs to the Lord. If you don't know any songs of praise, worship Him, telling Him all the good things you can think of about Him.



THANK

Make a list of all the things you can think of that God has done for you and others you know. Can you list 50? 100? 500?



Ideas To Grow In *Passion*

Thanks Journal: Start a daily journal and write down all the great things God has done for you and your loved ones.

Treasure Chest: Get/make a treasure box and place it in a prominent place in your home. Whenever God does something cool or miraculous in your life, write it down and put it in the chest.

Meditate: Start each day in a quiet place and just think about God's goodness and other attributes. Dwell on who God is and what He has accomplished.

Imagine and Share: If there were no obstacles and resources were not an issue, what would you hope to accomplish for Jesus in your life. Write it down and share it with three people in your life.

Read a Biography: Find the life story of someone sold out to Jesus and read it. Examples can include: Jim Elliot, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mother Teresa, Louis Zamperini, Elizabeth Elliot, Eric Liddell.

Competition Discovery: Spend some time reflecting on what or who in your life is competing with Jesus for your affections. Eliminate the competition (Properly, of course)!

Ask God: Ask God to give you the passion for Him that you seek. Do this on a regular basis through prayer.

Read His Stories: Read Matthew, Mark, Luke and/or John in the Bible. Reflect on the life and habits of Jesus. Maybe write down the stuff that impresses you about Him.

Sing Praise Songs: Get by yourself and sing songs of praise to God.

List Other Ideas Here:

SCRIPTURE

My life is directed by the Bible.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and almost every single verse is about God's Word. Meditate on it and try to find the following in the chapter:

Find 5 things we can learn about the Lord. (Example: v.64 - The Earth is full of God's love.)

Find 5 actions the Lord takes regarding His Word. (Example v.21 - He rebukes those who don't follow it.)

Find 5 situations in life in which the Bible is helpful to us (Example v.143 - In times of trouble and stress.)

Find 5 things the author asks of God. (Example v.169 - Give me understanding.)

Find 10 advantages to us for following His Word. (Example v.9 - Our lives remain pure.)

2

WHAT'S OUR PART?

Continuing in Psalm 119...

Find 10 things you can begin doing because of God's Word. (Example v.15 - Meditating on His Word.)

Find 5 things you can do to begin learning God's Word better. (Example v.11 - Hide it in your heart or memorize it.)

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to give you a desire to know the Bible and live according to what He says in it. Ask Him for discipline to make it happen.



LOOK

Look for a new way to interact with the Bible. Go online or to a book store and find ways to get into God's Word that work for your style of learning.



ESCAPE

Find a place and time that you can get away from distractions. Use this time and place to learn God's Word on a regular basis.



Ideas To Grow In *Scripture*

One Year Plan: Use a Bible app on your phone and read through the Bible in one year. Apps: Read Scripture, Bible by YouVersion

Sermon Notes: Take your sermon notes each week and study the scriptures presented in the sermon each day.

Two Questions: Pick a book of the Bible (maybe Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and read one story or section each day. Answer these two questions in a journal: 1. What did I learn about God and 2. How will my life be different because of it.

Storytelling: Learn to tell Bible stories like Jesus. It will grow your Bible knowledge and usability. www.saturationglobal.wordpress.com

Practical Verses: Find verses that address areas of need in your life (anger, fear, worry, etc.). Print them out and post them where you'll see them daily (bathroom mirror, desk, etc.). Review them and pray over them until memorized.

Scripture Rewrite: Rewrite a story or scripture in your own words.

Pick a Podcast: Find a podcast that is based on the Bible and listen regularly.

List Other Ideas Here:

PRAYER

Conversations with God overflow to every area of my life.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Luke 5:16. Jesus was God in the flesh and yet He regularly got away to pray in solitude. Why should we imitate His pattern?

READ Matthew 6:9-13. Jesus instructed His followers to pray and gave them a model. Why do you think Jesus gave instructions on praying?

READ Acts 2:42. The early church devoted themselves to prayer, among other things. Why is it a good idea to imitate their practice?

READ Romans 12:9-12. Paul lists faithfulness in prayer among the disciplines in which believers should be involved.

Throughout the Bible we are told to be involved in prayer. Why is it that we don't seem to make time for prayer?

By spending regular time in prayer, what are we admitting to God and others?

What does not making time for prayer really say about who is powering our lives?

List all the legitimate reasons for a follower of Jesus not to be in a rhythm of prayer.

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How often are we supposed to be in communication with God?

What habit or system can you develop that will help you pray throughout each day?

READ Ephesians 6:18. Paul writes that we should pray on all occasions and with all kinds of prayers. List different aspects of prayers you can consider in your prayer life. (Examples: methods of praying, categories of prayer, places to pray, etc.)

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Tell the Lord about your desire to pray more and ask Him to give you discipline and ideas for growing your prayer life.



ASK

Ask others what they are doing for prayer in their lives or find ideas on the internet or in a book. Write down the ideas you find.



CREATE

Create a Rhythm of prayer for your life. Make time and start small. Be creative and try different things till you find a rhythm that works for you.



Ideas To Grow In *Prayer*

Prayer Rocks: Put prayer items on rocks and hold them in your hand each morning as you pray one at a time for each one.

Prayer Walk: Find a secluded place where you can walk and talk with God without being interrupted.

Coffee Time with God: Over coffee, journal your prayer time. If you've got a smartphone, search for responses from God in the form of bible verses and add them to your journal in a different color.

P.R.A.Y.: Use this acronym to pray. Praise, Repent, Ask for others, Your own needs.

Prayer Jar: Make a jar, display it in your home or office. When God answers a prayer, write it down and put it in the jar.

Mapping Prayers: Use a map or globe to pray for various places in the world.

Prayer Calendar: At the beginning of each month, fill out a blank map with an ideas/person/organization to pray for each day.

Prayer Call: Have a weekly prayer phone call with someone. Make it the same person or make it a different person each week.

Song Prayer: Take a favorite praise song and pray the words out loud to the Lord. Interact with God on how you live or want to live the words out.

List Other Ideas Here:

OBEDIENCE

I listen to the Holy Spirit and obey.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Deuteronomy 4:1, 5:33; 1 Kings 2:1-3; Psalm 128. What is one big reason the Lord wants us to obey Him?

Why do you think our lives go better when we obey the Lord?

READ 1 Samuel 15:22. King Saul had disobeyed God but he tried to make up for it by sacrificing the best of what he was to destroy to God instead. How are we guilty of doing similar things? Give examples.

How do you think God feels when we do the same? Why?

2

WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ 1 John 2:1-6 What does John say about people who claim to be in Jesus, but don't do what He says to do?

John says that when we obey God, His Word is made complete in us. What does that mean and why is it important?

READ verse 6 again. What is the standard of living if you claim to be in Jesus?

In what area(s) of your life do you feel you need to become more obedient to God?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to reveal areas of your life in which you are lacking obedience to Him.



ASK

Ask a person or two that are committed to your growth in Jesus if they see any areas of your life that seem to lack obedience to the Lord. Hear them out.



RESPOND

Confess to the Lord your areas of disobedience and ask for forgiveness. Ask Him to create a desire in you to obey Him in these areas.



Ideas To Grow In *Obedience*

Confession Retreat: Get away to a private quiet place for a few hours and ask the Lord to convict you of areas that are not aligned with God's character. Write them down.

Share with a Friend: Get alone with a mature follower of Jesus and share with them where you struggle to obey God.

Weekly Walk: Set aside a time each week that you can go for a walk and talk to the Lord without being interrupted. Ask God: Where do I need to obey you more?

Captive Thoughts: Explore areas where your thoughts are not what God would want them to be.

Memorize 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Talent Search: Inventory the talents and gifts God has given you. Now find ways you can use them to obey God, not just further your goals and desires.

Not That!: You know there's something God has been telling you to do or stop doing for quite some time. Take care of it!

Spirit Study: Find a Bible Study or podcast about listening to the Holy Spirit. Work through it and apply it to your life.

Bad Example: Read the story of King Saul in 1 Samuel chapters 9-31. Observe the different ways he disobeyed God, made excuses and the consequences he suffered.

List Other Ideas Here:

IDENTITY

I understand who I am in Christ and live accordingly.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible is very specific when describing who we are because of the work Jesus did on the cross. Look up the Bible references below and write the things about you that are true because you are in Jesus.

Matthew 5:13-14

Romans 8:37

Colossians 1:14, 22

John 1:12

1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19

Colossians 3:12

John 10:27

1 Corinthians 12:27

1 Thessalonians 5:5

John 15:15

2 Corinthians 2:15

2 Timothy 1:7

Romans 5:1

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

1 Peter 2:11

Romans 8:1

Galatians 2:20

1 John 2:12

Romans 8:14-17

Ephesians 1:4, 13

1 John 4:10

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

PICK three of the truths about yourself that you found in the verses above and write down how you will live your life differently because of these truths.

WRITE the names of three people you will share this with this week. Then ask the Lord to help you do it.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to show you the truth of who you are in Jesus. Ask Him to guide you to live in this moment by moment.



MEMORIZE

Take time to memorize the key concepts of a few of the truths about you in Jesus. For example: I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:1



RECITE

When you are driving or exercising or doing something else in your daily routine, practice saying these truths out loud to yourself.



Ideas To Grow In *Identity*

Identity Study: Find a resource (Bible reading plan) and study who the Bible says you are in Jesus.

Read: Victory Over the Darkness by Neil T. Anderson.

Ask 3 People: Find three people who know you well, are committed to your success, and will tell you the truth. Ask them to use three words to describe the best of who you are. Write them down and look for ways to live them out more.

Take an Assessment: Take one of the many assessments available (MTBI, DiSC, PRO Development, etc.) and discover some new things about yourself. Make a list of ways God can use a person like you in the kingdom.

Bible Character: Find a character in the Bible who you think is similar to you in a few ways. Study who they were and how God used them to change the world.

I Am Weekly: For 7 consecutive days, take 10 minutes out of your day with a journal and ask the Lord, “Who am I?” Write down what you think God may be saying to you. Share it with someone when the 7 days are up.

Your Name: Research the origins of your full name. Explore how the meanings line-up with the identity of a believer in scripture. (eg. Stephanie means “crowned” – a privileged and royal position and responsibility)

Ephesians Exploration: Read through the book of Ephesians in the Bible. Write down every title or description given to a follower of Jesus.

30 Days of Prayer: Ask God every day for 30 days to share with you who you are to Him. Write what you hear/discover in a journal.

Critical Question: Spend time pondering this question: When you look at your life to this point, in what areas has God produced the most spiritual fruit through you? Take notes.

List Other Ideas Here:

ACCOUNTABILITY

I allow open and honest feedback in my life.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Matthew 18:15-17. Jesus gives us a very clear outline and action steps to take when we see another Jesus follower in sin. Describe the process.

What is the desired outcome of Jesus' command and why does He command it?

Why do Jesus followers typically refuse to follow these instructions, and what do they typically do instead? What is usually the outcome of that?

READ James 5:13-16. We are told to confess our sins to each other. What is the result of this happening?

READ Proverbs 12:15 and 14:9. What kind of a person refuses to hear advice or correct their sin? Why does the Bible call them this?

READ James 5:19-20. What happens when we help others in their areas of sin and weakness?

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ 1 John 1:8-9. John wrote this to people who already believed in Jesus, the Church. He still warns us to confess our sins. Why?

What is your typical response when someone approaches you about something you have done wrong? What should it be?

Who do you have in your life that you allow to speak personal, honest, and direct truth to you?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to soften your heart and make you aware of sin in your life that needs to be confessed.



SHARE

Get a small group of Jesus followers of your gender together and practice confession and accountability on a regular basis. Gulp! Do it; the Lord will surprise you with great things!



WRITE

Make a list of the things the Lord has corrected in your life and how your life became better because He did it.



Ideas To Grow In *Accountability*

Weekly Meet: Find 2-4 people of the same gender and meet each week to discuss specific areas in your lives that you are working on to become more Christ-like.

Similar Struggle: Find someone of the same gender who is struggling with the same things you are in life and meet with them for prayer and mutual encouragement.

Read Together: Find someone or some people who have similar struggles as you and together, read a book on the subject matter.

Practice Vulnerability: Practice being recklessly honest about areas of doubt, shame and regret with another person. Use discernment about what details and with whom to share.

Stop, Start, Continue: Ask people you trust to answer these questions about you: "What should I stop doing?" What should I start doing? What should I continue doing?"

Workshop Learning: Find a workshop or class on how to have difficult conversations or on conflict resolution.

Blame Breaker: Avoid placing blame on others, even when it might be their fault. Think through how you affected the situation, even if it was in a small way.

I Said It: Do what you say you will do and do it in a timely fashion. Hold yourself accountable to the things you have committed to do.

List Other Ideas Here:

GENEROSITY

I use my time and treasure to further the Kingdom of God.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Psalm 24:1. God owns everything in the world. What does that imply about the treasures we call our own?

READ Deuteronomy 8:17-18. God told the Israelites that He gives them the ability to make wealth; it's not of them. Is this true for us today and if so, what is the significance to the way we view whatever wealth we have?

If God owns it all and gives us the ability to make money, why do we typically feel that it belongs to us and that we get to make all the decisions about our money?

READ Titus 3:3-7 Generosity flows from the character of God. In what ways has God been generous towards us?

READ Psalm 112:5; Proverbs 11:25 and 22:9. What does God say will happen to those who are generous?

In what ways can we imitate the generosity of God?

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What are God's principles regarding generosity? v. 6, 7

Why should we never worry about being generous to others? v. 8, 10, 11

What are some of the results of generosity? v. 12, 13, 14

What is stopping you from beginning a lifestyle of generosity? Tell it to the Lord.

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Confess to the Lord if you have not been living a generous life. Ask Him to empower you to be more generous.



GIVE

Find small ways that you can begin being generous. Make some small sacrifices to see how the Lord will supply your needs.



SURPRISE!

Put a single bill (\$5, \$10, \$25 or \$50) in your pocket and ask the Lord to show you



someone in need to give it to. Don't give it away till you're sure the Lord is leading you to do it.

Ideas To Grow In *Generosity*

Church Giving: Choose a percentage of your income and give it to your local church each week.

Kiva.org: Give to individuals around the world and help them learn trade, get out of poverty and pay back the loan.

Financial Peace University: Take this class to learn biblical, practical ways to manage money and get out of debt.

Disaster Relief: Give financially or go to a place where a natural or man-made disaster has happened to serve. Umc.org has a list of current disasters areas you can support.

Generosity Account: Create an account (bank, piggy bank, etc.) and add money to it weekly, monthly or whenever you are able. Take and give funds from it when the Lord directs.

Resource Revamp: Have a driver's license and a car? Offer a ride to someone in need. Have tools and woodworking skills? Offer help on a home improvement project. Skilled with computers? Help an older person in technical need.

Create Margins: Stop spending every penny you earn. Lower your monthly costs by making sacrifices so you have financial margins with which to be generous.

Spend the Leftovers: Set aside your giving money from each paycheck first. Maybe have it come out electronically so you can't spend it. Spend your leftovers after being generous instead of trying to be generous with what is left over.

List Other Ideas Here:

COMMUNITY

My interactions with the church are rooted in love and are mutually beneficial.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The New Testament is filled with “one another” statements about how those in the Church are to treat each other. There are over 100 of them! Read the following examples and write down the commands in these passages.

Colossians 3:13

1 Peter 4:9

Philippians 2:3

Galatians 5:13

James 5:16

Romans 12:10

1 Peter 5:5

Hebrews 10:24-25

Ephesians 4:32

Galatians 6:2

Ephesians 4:15

John 13:34

John 15:12

Romans 13:8

Colossians 3:16

Romans 14:13

1 John 3:11

1 John 4:7

1 Thessalonians 3:12

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ephesians 5:21

1 Peter 1:22

2

WHAT'S OUR PART?

Summarize, in your own words, God's expectations for how we live in community within the Church.

Since all these actions and behaviors of those in the Church cannot be experienced in a weekend service, how else can those in the Church live out these principles?

What will you do this week to begin living these out in the Church Body?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to show you where you can



improve in the area of community with the Church Body. Work on whatever He reveals to you.

JOIN

If you have not already joined a small group in your local Church Body, join one.



Begin living out the “one anothers” together.

LIST

Write out ways you can live these



“one anothers” in your Church or small group. Try one a day or one a week.

Ideas To Grow In *Community*

Small Group: Commit to attending a weekly small group in your church.

Gossip Check: Take 30 minutes and think through your conversations in the last week. Have you said something about someone or to someone you shouldn't have? Fix it.

Mentor Match: Spend time with someone in the church who needs help growing in their faith. Look for someone who might be a little less mature in their walk of faith than you.

Hospital Run: Find out the name of someone in the church who is in the hospital or stuck at home due to health. Stop by and read Psalm 121 to them and then pray for them.

Attend Consistently: Make missing weekly church service rare occasion. Treating church as optional will inevitably lead to treating its people as dispensable.

Recognition and Honor: Encourage your church leaders with notes or gifts. Make sure you publicly praise more than you privately complain.

Gratitude Card: Write a note of thanks to a teacher, mentor, volunteer or staff person who has helped you in some way. Try doing this every week or every other week.

Blessed to Bless: Look in the Blessing Rhythm and pick any of the ideas there and do it for someone in your local church.

List Other Ideas Here:

SERVICE

I use my gifts/talents to grow the church.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Mark 10:35-45. When you look at this story, what are some of the issues the disciples were struggling with?

What root issue did Jesus address in their lives?

What were Jesus' thoughts about serving others?

From what you know about Jesus and what the Bible tells us, how did Jesus set an example of service for us?

2

WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ Ephesians 4:11-16. According to verses 11 and 12, why did Jesus put leaders in the church?

Describe the maturity that comes when each member of the church serves in their unique way. (v 12-13)

Describe the types of things that are avoided when we serve. (v 14-15)

READ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 1 Peter 4:10. Since each person has been given at least one gift for serving, what is the expectation for each follower of Jesus? What should we do then?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to give you ideas for where you can best serve according to how He made you.



TRY

Try serving in a ministry at your church. If it's not you, try something else until you find a place to serve that fits who you are.



COMMIT

Commit to serving on a regular basis in



the ministry you chose. Find out when they need you and then show up faithfully on time, ready to serve.

Ideas To Grow In Service

Serving Team: Find a team in your church where you can use your gifts and talents and join it.

Weekend Clean Up: Arrange to stay after the last service one Sunday and help clean the church building.

Parking Lot Scamper: Gather your small group or another group of friends and spend an hour or two walking through the parking lot of your church campus. Pick up trash.

Don't Walk By: See something out of place in the church? Pick it up and put it where it belongs, even if you didn't use it. Stop thinking: It's not my job.

Staff/Volunteer Surprise: Surprise the church staff with a mid-week lunch or snack. Or surprise a weekend volunteer team with a treat before or after the service.

Talent Transition: What are you really good at doing at your place of work? Find ways you can use that skill/talent to help someone in the church or the church at large.

Date Night Set-Up: Find a couple in the church that could use a date night and stress relief and offer to watch their kids so they can go out and have some time alone.

Dinner Party: Host a dinner party at your home for a few people from your local church that you don't know very well. It could be volunteers from a specific ministry or just random people.

Office Projects: Find out what weekly work is done in the church office and volunteer to do some during your free time.

List Other Ideas Here:

FAMILY

My faith overflows first and foremost in my home.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Deuteronomy 6:1-3. When the Hebrew people were about to go into the bountiful land God has promised them, He told them to obey His commands. Why did He do this? What are the advantages of obeying Him?

What was God's desire for His people?

READ Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Because God desired good things for His people, He commanded that obedience be taught to children as well. How was this to be done?

What would that look like in our world today?

READ Deuteronomy 6:20-25. What were the parents to do with their children to guide them in understanding the reason for following God?

Describe what happens when we regularly tell our children about the cool things God is doing in our lives.

What happens when we have no stories of personal interaction with God?

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ 1 Timothy 3:1-5. Paul writes a description of what a leader in the church should be like. What do verses 4-5 say about the Church and home?

Leaders set an example for followers. How should we be following the example of our Church leaders, according to these verses?

In what ways can you better follow Jesus in your home, either in your personal relationship with God or in how you interact with your family members?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to reveal to you ways in which you can be a better family member. This may be in the role of a child or an adult. Confess if needed.



ASK

Ask members of your immediate and extended family to share with you their observations of how you can better follow Jesus in your home.



JOURNAL

Begin writing down stories of what God is doing in your life. Keep track of ways He is growing you and providing for you. Share these with the members of your family.



Ideas To Grow In *Family*

Apologies: Think through your family interactions this week. Is there any behavior you need to apologize for? Make it right.

Family Night: Once a week gather the family together, play a game, then discuss a topic. Play for fun and pick a topic that is relevant to the whole family.

Vision Picture: As a family, decide what the 5-7 most important values are to your family (love, adventure, generosity, outdoors, etc.). Draw, cut from magazines, paint, etc. a collage that has each value illustrated.

Highs/Lows: Sit in a circle and have each person share their low (the *worst* part of their day or week). Then go around and have each person share their high (the *best* part of their day/week).

Family Interviews: Make a video recording of each person in your family. Ask them questions about their favorites and likes. Watch one video per night and celebrate that person.

Make a 2nd Meal: Make a meal together, but make two sets of the meal. Eat one meal as a family and take the other to a family in need or in crisis.

Adopt a Friend: Find a friend of one of your children who does not have a dad or mom, or has a rough home life. Invite them to join your family for meals, trips, family fun nights, etc.

List Other Ideas Here:

READINESS

I continue to prepare my mind and heart for interaction with others.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ 2 Timothy 4:1-3. When does Paul say we should be prepared to preach the word? What does it take to make this happen?

READ 1 Peter 3:15. When does Peter say we are to be ready to share why we believe what we believe?

What excuses do followers of Jesus usually make when it comes to sharing what they believe? How do these verses address those excuses?

List five things a follower of Jesus can do to be ready to share the gospel.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ Titus 3:1-2. Paul says to be ready to do whatever is good. What "good" might a person be ready to do?

In what ways can a disciple of Jesus be ready to do that "good"?

What will you do specifically to prepare for sharing the gospel and doing good to others?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Ask the Lord to guide you to a gospel training opportunity, or to a person who can train you in better sharing the gospel with others.



LISTEN

Listen to podcasts or watch videos of others sharing the gospel. The more you hear it and see it, the better you'll get.



PRACTICE

Learn and practice a method for sharing the gospel. There are many ways to do it. Find a way that fits your style and personality then go share the gospel.



Ideas To Grow In *Readiness*

Storytelling: Learn to tell Bible stories like Jesus. It's engaging, effective and not a lecture. www.saturationglobal.wordpress.com

Pray for Opportunities: Pray daily that the Lord will bring you opportunities to love those who don't yet know Jesus.

My Story: Spend some time preparing how to share the story of how God has made a difference in your life. Prepare a 90-second and 5-minute version.

Open Questions: Memorize a couple of open-ended questions you can ask a person that will turn a conversation into an opportunity to share Jesus. For example: "What has your experience been with the church or God?" or "What factors shape your spiritual life?"

Prayer List: Make a list of people you know that you'd like to see come to Jesus (that's everyone, right?). Pray specifically and daily for them and for opportunities to share. Pray for yourself too.

Memorize Scripture: Memorize 3-4 Bible verses that share the gospel story. John 3:16, Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, etc.

Pray Against Fear: Ask the Lord to remove fear and replace it with Holy Spirit-led courage to share. Pray this daily over yourself and others.

List Other Ideas Here:

ENGAGEMENT

I look for and take advantage of opportunities to introduce people to Jesus.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Colossians 4:2-6. What things does Paul tell believers to do in this passage? What does he ask for prayer about?

READ Acts 1:8. Jesus tells us we are to be witnesses in our home, in neighboring areas, outside our area and eventually the whole world. Where is your Jerusalem? Judea? Samaria?

READ Matthew 5:13-16. Why does Jesus say in verse 16 that we are to do good works? How does this happen?

READ James 1:27. James says we need to meet the needs of the world but not be drawn into sinful behavior. Describe how this works.

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

List some ways you can do good deeds for those around you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are some hobbies you enjoy that you could invite unchurched friends to join you in?

Where do you typically encounter strangers that you could engage for Christ?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Start each day asking the Lord to give you opportunities and boldness to engage your community.



ASK

Get in the habit of asking people you encounter a simple question: "How can I help you?" Respond accordingly.



INVITE

Make a habit of inviting people you know who are not part of the church to join you in your regular activities. Try meals, play time, church activities, shopping, errands, hobbies, etc.



Ideas To Grow In *Engagement*

Water Cooler: At your work water cooler (or wherever casual conversations happen), ask a coworker you don't know well how their weekend was, or how their family is doing.

Random Acts of Kindness: Do a random act of kindness for a stranger or a person in your neighborhood.

Frequent Restaurant: Make it a habit to go to the same restaurant at the same time on a regular basis to get to know the waiter/waitress. Ask them about their family and hobbies.

Neighborhood Party: Plan a block party with your neighbors for your neighbors.

Church Invite: Invite a friend/coworker/neighbor to a church service or special event.

Neighborhood List: Make a list of your neighbors' names and their emails. Walk around and share it with each of your neighbors. This enables communication for emergencies and for social events too!

Lawn Chair Meet: Sit on your front lawn in a lawn chair, up near the sidewalk. As people walk by, introduce yourself and ask them about themselves.

Sports Team/Hobby: Use your child's sports team or hobby as an opportunity to get to know others. Go out for a meal or dessert after the game. Invite them for dinner. Plan a multi-family barbecue, etc.

List Other Ideas Here:

BLESSING

I find ways to make the world around me better.



1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Jeremiah 29:7 When God brought the children of Israel into exile, He told them to seek to bless the city they lived in. Why did God tell them to do this?

READ Matthew 5:14-16 What similarities do you see here in Jesus' command to let our good works shine and God's command to bless their city?

READ Galatians 6:7-10 What is the connection Paul makes between reaping what you sow and doing good to all?

How does doing "good to all" and "blessing our city" move God's kingdom forward?

Does God bless cities and people even when they don't deserve it? What are our excuses for not doing the same?

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

List some ways you as an individual can bless others around you.

List some ways a group (church small group, team, work friends, etc.) can be a blessing to those around them.

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Start each day asking the Lord to give you opportunities and resources to bless others.



LOOK

Get in the habit of looking for ways you can help people or organizations in your city/town/area.



ACT

When the Holy Spirit prompts you to take action with a person or a group, just do it. Trust that He is leading you to be a blessing to the world in which He's placed you.



Ideas To Grow In *Blessing*

Big Tip: Leave a larger than normal tip for your waiter/waitress/delivery person. It doesn't matter if they deserve it, just bless them.

Teacher Note: Send a note to your child's teacher/coach/instructor saying how much they impact your child's life. Maybe give a gift card.

Quick Prayer: Ask your mechanic/barber/bank teller/doctor, etc. if there is anything they'd like you to pray about for them..

Disaster Relief: Give financially or go to a place where a natural or man-made disaster has happened to serve. Visit umcor.com for current disasters they are supporting.

Weekly Service: Find a way to serve in your community weekly – preferably at the same place. Build new friendships and watch God give you more opportunities to make Him known.

Simplify Your Stuff: Go through your closet and find good clothes that you don't need. Find good stuff you have in your home that you can live without. Donate them to a local family in need or to a self-help center.

Hospital/Nursing Home Run: Visit random people in the hospital or in a nursing home. Ask them to share their life story or share yours. Pray for them. Read scripture to them.

Work Treat: Bring a treat like coffee or a snack to work.

Cash Pocket: Keep an amount of money in your pocket (\$5, \$10, \$50, \$100). Ask the Lord to direct you to the person who needs it. Don't worry about what they will use it for, just give it when you feel God directing you.

List Other Ideas Here:

SHARING

I communicate the gospel to others.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ Mark 16:15. Jesus did not say to “live,” “show,” or “financially support the preaching” of the gospel. He said to “preach” the gospel. What is the difference between these and preaching and why did he command it?

READ Mark 13:9-11. Jesus told us we’d have troubles if we follow Him, but what did He still say must happen?

He said not to worry about what to say. How do people use their lack of knowledge to keep from sharing the gospel today? What does He say is the solution?

READ 1 Corinthians 1:17. Paul says that if he had preached the gospel with wisdom and eloquence, it would have lost its power. What does that mean?

How might this apply to someone today who thinks they aren’t smart enough to share Jesus with another person?

2 WHAT’S OUR PART?

READ 2 Timothy 4:1-6. Describe what Paul says about our role in sharing the gospel with others.

READ Ephesians 6:19-20. What does Paul ask prayer for and what word does he use to describe himself?

READ 2 Corinthians 5:20. What word does Paul call us here and what’s our job?

READ 1 Corinthians 11:1. What does Paul tell us to do here and what is the connection to the facts in the two previous verses? Who is to preach the gospel?

3

NEXT STEPS

PRAY

Confess to the Lord if you have not been active in sharing the gospel verbally with others. Ask the Lord to make you bold and to give you opportunities to share the gospel.



CHOOSE

Think about the people in your life, those you know and those you see regularly. Decide who you think the Lord is leading you to share with and pray for them.



SHARE

Do it! Take a moment to share the gospel with the person or people that God has put on your heart.



Ideas To Grow In *Sharing*

Storytelling: Learn to tell Bible stories like Jesus. It's engaging, effective and not a lecture. Check out saturationglobal.wordpress.com

Simple Testimony: Prepare the story of how God changed your life when you came to Jesus. Make a 3-minute and a 7-minute version. Pray for opportunities to share it.

Write a Letter: Write a letter to a long-time friend and share with them how the Lord has changed your life and how you'd love them to experience the same thing. Offer to share more if they are interested.

Partner Power: Grab a friend who knows Jesus and head downtown or to a place with lots of people. Together, look for people with whom you can share the gospel.

What I Value Most: Share your story of life change online at www.whativaluemost.com and then pass it on to someone who needs to hear the gospel.

Perspective Cards App: Download the Perspective Cards app on your smartphone. Follow the instructions for a neat way to get into gospel conversations.

List Other Ideas Here:

GLOBAL

I am involved in making disciples worldwide.

GOD

CHURCH

WORLD

1 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

READ 1 Samuel 17:46. Why did David kill Goliath?

READ John 11:4. Why did Jesus bring Lazarus back to life?

READ John 12:27-28. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

READ the following verses. Psalms 9:11, 46:10, 96:3, 105:1; Isaiah 12:4-5; 1 Chronicles 16:24; Habakuk 2:14; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelations 5:6-10

What do the above verses collectively say about God's desire and plan?

God wants all the _____¹ to know _____²!

2 WHAT'S OUR PART?

READ Matthew 28: 18-20 and Acts 1:8. Where does Jesus expect us to share about him?

READ 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. What is God doing through us?

God has called _____³ to declare Him to the _____⁴!

¹ nations ² Him ³ us ⁴ nations

Check out The Big Book at threerelationships.com for practical ideas.

3

NEXT STEPS

LEARN & PRAY

Find a newsletter or blog that will inform you about God's work around the world. Pray daily for what He is doing.



GIVE

Adjust your budget to include money for global disciple-making efforts. Support a missionary, give to the poor or invest in a church plant.



GO

Go on a missions trip or service project outside of your city, county, state or country.



Ideas To Grow In *Global*

Kiva.org: Give to individuals around the world and help them learn trade, get out of poverty and pay back the loan.

Missions Trip: Go on a short-term missions trip with your church or another organization.

Support a Missionary: Give financially to a missionary. Support them in prayer and write emails/letters and send care packages.

- Go to www.persecution.com and read stories of how people are suffering for Jesus worldwide.
- Go to www.radicalexperiment.org and use their daily routines to grow your view of God's global work.
- Write a letter of encouragement to a missionary that is supported by our home church. Make a habit of it. Try doing one a week or one a month.
- Use Compassion International or another Christian agency to sponsor a child. Your monthly contribution gets them food, both physical and spiritual.

Operation World: Get a copy of the book Operation World by Jason Mandryk and pray through it. Ask God what you should do when a specific country or region becomes a burden on your heart.

Support a ministry outside the church: When you hear about a ministry outside of the local community that is making an impact for Christ (new church plant, etc.), consider supporting them financially.

List Other Ideas Here:



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